

**Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology Board**

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**STATE OF CALIFORNIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND AUDIOLOGY BOARD**

**Department of Consumer Affairs
San Francisco State University**

**Burk Hall #28
1600 Holloway Avenue
San Francisco CA 94132**

**JOINT MEETING OF THE BOARD AND THE DIRECTORS OF THE CALIFORNIA
ACADEMIC TRAINING PROGRAMS IN SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY AND
AUDIOLOGY**

**January 14, 2005
MINUTES**

Board Members Present

Marcia Raggio, Ph.D., Chairperson
Sherry Washington, M.A.
Rebecca Binge, M.A.
Alison Grimes, AuD
Diana Verdugo, M.S.
James Till, Ph.D.
Bruce Gerratt, Ph.D.

Staff Present

Annemarie Del Mugnaio, Executive Officer
Candace Raney, Board Analyst
Lori Pinson, Board Analyst
Ann Bollenbacher, Board Staff
Albert Balingit, Legal Counsel
George Ritter, Legal Counsel

Members Absent

Paul Donald, M.D.

Guests Present

Robert Powell, California Speech-Language Hearing Association
Jane Moir, Public School Speech-Language Pathologist
Jody Wenzelberg, California Academy of Audiology
Dennis Van Vliet, Audiologist

I. Call to Order

Ms. Del Mugnaio called the meeting to order at 12:10 p.m.

II. Introductions

Those present introduced themselves.

III. Discussion of California Code of Regulation Amendments Section 1399.152 Regarding "Board-Approved Institutions" in Response to National Changes in Accreditation Standards for Professional Training Programs in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology

Ms. Del Mugnaio provided background information regarding the Board's efforts towards amending its existing regulations, California Code of Regulations Section 1399.152, defining a Board-approved institution and explained that the impetus prompting the proposed amendments was to update antiquated accreditation language and to respond to the changes in academic standards for the profession of audiology. She referenced the meeting materials distributed and noted that one of the documents was the Board's working document outlining the proposed changes to Section 1399.152. She also explained that the other documents provided an analysis of the existing statutory and regulatory requirements and the issues related to the academic transition in audiology. Ms. Del Mugnaio stated that the California Council of Academic Programs in Communicative Sciences and Disorders prepared a document for Board consideration. She stated that James McCartney, Jean Lowry, Ed Klein, and O.T. Kenworthy all contributed to the development of that document.

Ms. Grimes provided a history of the academic transition in the profession of audiology and stated that the discussion regarding the change in academic standards began as early as 1997/98 in both national organizations the American Academy of Audiology (AAA) and the American Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA). In 1990, Nule Decker wrote that "The amount of knowledge added to the profession of audiology is staggering. We do not have time within the confines of four semesters to adequately do what we should do. That is why the professional doctorate is so important." ASHA in the early 1990's created a task force to discuss doctoral entry for the profession of audiology and voted some thirteen years ago to move to the doctoral entry-level for the profession. Ms. Grimes stated that the history demonstrates the number of years the profession has had to prepare itself for the doctoral transition.

Ms. Grimes indicated that she and Ms. Del Mugnaio recently attend the National Council of State Boards in Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology in Santa Fe, New Mexico and learned that at least two states are now requiring a doctorate degree in audiology to be eligible for licensure. She further stated that other states are actively moving in that direction.

Ms. Grimes explained that California has some unique challenges in terms of creating doctoral training opportunities, while addressing the existing shortage of practicing audiologists in the state. She stated that it is important, from a consumer protection standpoint, to revisit what constitutes a degree in audiology, a master's degree or a doctoral degree and if it is a doctoral degree, what type of institution should offer such training. She explained that it is clear that both ASHA and AAA failed to secure appropriate accreditation standards for doctoral education and that the burden now rests with the state licensing boards across the country. She stated that state licensing agencies must also consider necessary statutory and regulatory changes to address the

changes in entry-level professional standards, such as, redefining the required professional experience standards which is currently a post-master's, nine-month clinical experience, and the related supervision qualifications factors. Ms. Grimes explained that we are facing critical consumer protection issues as the Board heard at its September 2004 meeting from representatives of the California Children Services, Department of Health Services who expressed concern that we do not have an adequate number of pediatric audiologists to diagnose and treat deaf children. She stated that on one hand we have a shortage of audiologists to provide services and on the other we have current inadequacies in personnel and training to meet the level of services needed in California. She concluded her opening remarks by stating the Board and the colleagues from the training programs must come together to develop appropriate programmatic training standards and to agree on changes to the laws and regulations that serve to provide for and protect the needs of the general population.

IV. Discuss Professional Transition to Doctoral Level Training Standards in Audiology and Determine Impact on Existing Licensure Requirements